



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Billings Field Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101-4669  
[www.blm.gov/mt](http://www.blm.gov/mt)

In Reply Refer To:

1610 (MT0010.CSB)

March 22, 2013

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMP Revision. This plan revision is a combined effort that addresses both the Billings Field Office and the Pompeys Pillar National Monument in a consolidated RMP and associated EIS. This document refers to the combined Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument planning areas as the Planning Area and is referenced throughout the document as the Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument Draft RMP/EIS. The BLM prepared this document in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, Montana state agencies, county governments, other federal agencies and tribal governments located in the Planning Area.

The Planning Area is located in south central Montana and consists of approximately 10,804,549 acres of land in Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, and Yellowstone counties in Montana and 4,298 acres of public land in Big Horn County, Wyoming. The BLM administers approximately 434,154 acres of surface lands and 1,839,782 acres of federal mineral estate using the management listed in the Billings Resource Management Plan (1984), as amended. When approved, this consolidated RMP and associated EIS will result in two Records of Decision (ROD), one for Pompeys Pillar National Monument and one for the Billings Field Office, which will replace the 1984 Billings RMP, as amended.

The Draft RMP/EIS describes and analyzes four alternatives for future management of public lands and resources administered by the BLM. While an Agency Preferred Alternative is identified, selection of the final plan has not been made. The final decision will be made only after consideration of the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS.

Your review and comment on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMP/EIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference to a section or page number. Comments that contain only opinions will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Written comments may be submitted as follows (submittal of electronic comments is encouraged):

- Written comments may be submitted during public meetings; or
- Written comments may be submitted electronically via email to: [Billings\\_PompeysPillar\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:Billings_PompeysPillar_RMP@blm.gov) or
- Written comments may be mailed directly or delivered to:

Draft Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMP/EIS  
Billings Field Office, Bureau of Land Management  
RMP Team Lead, Carolyn Sherve-Bybee  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101

Information regarding meeting dates and locations for public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS will be forthcoming in news releases after publication of the EPA notice.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS have been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies and to those persons who have indicated that they wished to receive a copy of the Draft RMP/EIS. Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are available on the project website and for public inspection at the following location:

Bureau of Land Management  
Billings Field Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101  
Project website: [http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings\\_field\\_office/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/rmp.html)

The BLM thanks our cooperating agencies who have participated in the planning process and helped us complete this document.

For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Carolyn Sherve-Bybee, RMP Team Lead at (406) 896-5234

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James M. Sparks', with a stylized, flowing script.

James M. Sparks  
Field Manager